

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, as follows:

The present invention relates to a method for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25-hydroxyvitamin D₃) in animal feed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

25-Hydroxy-cholecalciferol is used as an additive to animal feed and is available as HyDTM (ROCHE VITAMINS AG, Basel, Switzerland) to improve the health status of animals such as livestock and pets. In view of its physiological potency and the narrow therapeutic window dosaging of the compound is critical and therefore, reliable analytical means are required to monitor the amount of the compound in feed and its uniform distribution therein. Various methods for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol in plasma have been described which are based on immunoassays, see WO 99/67211 or on HPLC/mass spectrometry using derivatives or isotopes as internal standards, see Biological & Pharmaceutical Bulletin (2001), 24(7), 738-743. However, these known methods are not satisfying when applied to the analysis of feed samples.

Please insert the following heading on page 2, between lines 2 and 3, as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following on page 2, line 30:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 shows extracted ion chromatograms of the standard solution.

FIGURE 2 shows extracted ion chromatograms of the blank feed sample.

FIGURE 3 shows extracted ion chromatograms of a typical feed sample.

FIGURE 4 is a schematical depiction of an installation of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION